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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
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R 151700Z FEB 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2792
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IT, PO
SUBJECT: VISIT IN ITALY OF PCP SECRETARY GENERAL CUNHAL

REF: ROME 2420 (NOTAL)

1. PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL COMPLETED A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO ITALY FEBRUARY 14 AS THE GUEST OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) AND DEPARTED FOR LISBON. ASIDE FROM MEETING WITH SENIOR PCI OFFICIALS INCLUDING LONGO, BERLINGUER, AND PAJETTA, CUNHAL MET WITH THE SECRETARIES OF THE SOCIALIST, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES AND ON. CARLO RUSSO, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. CUNHAL ALSO HAD SESSIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST MAYORS OF ROME AND NAPLES.

2. THE TWO DELEGATIONS ISSUED A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE WHICH PROVIDES THIN PICKINGS FOR ANALYSIS. READING
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BETWEEN THE LINES, THE GIST OF THE COMMUNIQUE IS THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE REMAIN MORE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE OF IDEAS BETWEEN THE PCI AND THE PCP THAN POINTS OF CONVERGENCE. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS RESTRICTED TO SETTING FORTH THE MINIMUM COMMON DENOMINATOR IN TERMS OF POINTS ON WHICH THE TWO PARTIES SHARE SIMILAR OUTLOOKS. ESSENTIALLY

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THESE WERE THE INDEPENDENCE OF EACH PARTY TO DEVELOP ITS OWN AUTONOMOUS LINE IN LIGHT OF THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCE IN WHICH IT EXISTS AND THE NECESSITY OF DEVELOPING "FRIENDLY COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF RESPECT FOR FREEDOM OF CHOICE OF EACH PARTY."

3. COMMENT. FROM HERE, IT APPEARS THAT THE CUNHAL VISIT ACHIEVED THE MINIMUM OBJECTIVES PROBABLY SET BY BOTH PARTIES. ON THE PART OF THE PORTUGUESE, THE CONTACTS WITH THE ITALIANS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID A STATE OF TOTAL ISOLATION FROM THE MAJOR WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES GIVEN THE VIRTUAL NON-EXISTENCE OF TIES WITH THE SPANISH AND FRENCH PARTIES. FROM THE PCI STANDPOINT, IT REINFORCED THE PARTY'S GROWING IMPORTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTER-NATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. QUITE OBVOUSLY THE PCI MUST HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE TIME HAS NOT YET ARRIVED WHEN THE PCI AND THE PCP COULD FIND MINIMUM POINTS OF AGREEMENT ON A COMMON IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, THUS LEAVING THE PCP OUTSIDE THE SO-CALLED EUROCOMMUNIST MOVEMENT.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 2420
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3318629
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT IN ITALY OF PCP SECRETARY GENERAL CUNHAL
TAGS: PFOR, IT, PO, (CUNHAL, ALVARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c23a4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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